

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: March 2, 2016

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held at City Hall in the Council Chambers, Wednesday evening at 6:00 P.M. on March 2, 2016.

Present were:

Esmeralda Moya
Danny Simms
Cruz R. Hinojosa, Jr.
Maricela Serna
Juan Flores
Mayra Gonzales
Robert Pruett
Jim Defoyd

Mayor
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
City Secretary
City Administrator
City Attorney

Item # 1-Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item # 2- Commissioner Hinojosa gave the invocation. Mayor Moya lead the pledge of allegiance.

Item # 3-Comments from audience.

Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, asked where the recycling bin was going to be located and if it was open to the citizens. Commissioner Serna stated that it was going to be located at the community building and it will be open to the public. Mayor Moya stated that she understood it would be a recycling bin for glass and aluminum.

Mr. Mark Groba, a citizen, asked who did the hiring and the negotiating of a salary for new employees. Commissioner Serna stated that it was the commission. Mr. Robert Pruett stated that a new employee generally starts at \$10.00 an hour and the city has certificate pay and longevity pay and through the years the employee's salary will increase. Mr. Pruett stated that during budgetary time the commission will vote on giving a cost of living raise and other than that it is set in stone and done by the commission. Mr. Pruett stated that the employees get the longevity pay that was voted on by the commission and the longer they are there they will get the \$4.00 of longevity pay. Mr. Groba asked what about the new employees? Mr. Pruett stated that new employees start out about \$10.00 an hour, depending on their level of skills. Mr. Groba asked if the level of pay was decided by the commission? Mr. Pruett stated that it is all decided by the commission. Mr. Groba stated that the city was paying \$38,482.62 for Mr. Pruett's health insurance. Mr. Groba asked what kind of health insurance does he have for that amount of money. Mr. Pruett stated that he was going to answer that question for Mr. Groba, but that was not a question and answer session. Mr. Pruett stated that it was the time to make your statements. Mr. Pruett stated that all the employees have the same amount of insurance that is paid per employee. Mr. Groba stated that he is a tax payer and he would like to know why his insurance was so high. Mr. Groba stated that he has a hard time finding health insurance, because it is so high and Mr. Pruett's is \$38,000 when other employees are \$12,000.

A citizen asked who was in charge of making sure the streets and yards are clean. The citizen stated that he has called numerous times and every time he drives around the neighborhood he sees that nothing is being done about it. The citizen stated that there is trash all over the place and he has been told that code enforcement over sees that and he has talked to him so many times. The citizen complained of people working on cars in the street. Mayor Moya asked Commissioner Hinojosa to address the concern, since the code enforcement officer was under him. Commissioner Hinojosa

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stated that the code enforcement officer was under the Police Department and the police chief was there. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he did not know why the code enforcer was not tending to the complaints. Mr. Pruett stated that the city has dozens of pending cases for those same infractions. Mr. Pruett stated that they receive a citation, then go to court where they may plead not guilty and it may be 30-60 days before they will go before the judge. Mr. Pruett stated that in many cases there will be several tickets issued to the same property owner. Mr. Pruett stated that a lot of those cases are getting addressed, but they have to go through the judicial system first before it is finally resolved.

Mr. Mark Groba, a citizen, stated that he had a question about property tax. Mr. Groba stated that he did an open records request on delinquent taxes and stated that there were a lot of delinquent taxes that have been on the books. Mr. Groba asked if there had been any law suits filed on them. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Defoyd if he would like to answer that question. Mr. Defoyd stated that there was ongoing litigation on every delinquent case he has. Mr. Defoyd stated that he has three drawers full of pending cases. Mr. Groba asked if they have all been filled. Mayor Moya stated according to Mr. Defoyd they have.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes for regular meeting on February 16, 2016. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2016. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 5-Consider ratifying accounts payable through March 3, 2016.Commissioner Serna moved to approve ratifying accounts payable through March 3, 2016. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2nd... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 6-Consider approving the service agreement between the City of Galena Park and waste management for a recycling bin. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the service agreement between the City of Galena Park and waste management for a recycling bin. Commissioner Flores, 2nd... Commissioner Hinojosa stated that they have the service agreement in front of them, but it does not say how much. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that the contract states that it is for three years, and the agreement has a figure there but he doesn't know if it is per month or per year. Commissioner Serna stated that it was per lift. Commissioner Hinojosa asked if when it gets full, they call them and they will pick it up? Commissioner Hinojosa stated that it depends on when it gets used by the citizens. Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 7-Consider approving the annual 2015 tier-1 racial profiling contact data report- police department. Commissioner Hinojosa moved to approve the annual 2015 tier-1 racial profiling contact data report- Police Department. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider approving the part time employment of Caitlyn Hatcher and Michael Gomez as firefighter/paramedic- Fire Department. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the part time employment of Caitlyn Hatcher and Michael Gomez as firefighter/paramedic- Fire Department. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes ...Motion Carried.

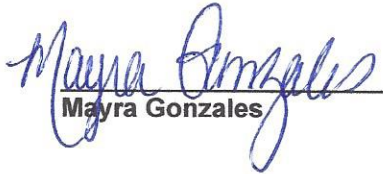
Mayor Moya asked for Announcements

-There were no announcements.

Commissioner Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flores 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

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Meeting adjourned: 6:14 P.M


Mayra Gonzales


APPROVED